



Bluecoat Meres
Academy
believe in yourself, in others, in God

17 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am very pleased to provide you with the plans for the re-opening of the academy in September. These have been approved by our Board of Directors and are in line with Government guidelines to ensure the health and safety of all our students and staff.

There are significant changes to how we will organise the school day which are attached with this letter.

Please read this very carefully and if you have any follow up questions regarding the plans for September please email them to office@bluecoatmeres.co.uk.

You should also be aware that the Government have stated that all children will be expected to attend school in September. If your child is being advised not to attend on medical grounds then you will need to provide a doctor's note confirming this.

In order to ensure a safe return to the academy for all students and to allow everybody to get used to the new routines there will be staggered return for each Year group. This will also allow a transition period for our new Year 7 intake and time for students to adjust to out new health and safety measures. Students should attend at the following dates/times:

Year 7: Thursday 3rd September 8.30am start with a 3.00pm finish. Students to wait outside the main entrance and will enter and exit from this point.

Year 11: Thursday 3rd September 10am start with a 3.45pm finish. Students to enter and exit through the Sports Centre side gate, they will then wait to enter by the library student entrance.

Year 9 and 10: Monday 7th September 8.40am start with a 3.15 finish. Students to enter and exit at The Avenue Road gate waiting near the outside dining room door.

Year 8: Tuesday 8th September 8.30am start with a 3pm finish. Students to wait outside the main entrance and will exit from this point.

On returning to the academy students will be made aware of the changes to the school day with different lesson, break and lunchtimes which are shown in the attached letter.

These have been challenging time for families and I would like to thank you all for the support that you have shown during the academy closure period. I hope that you can enjoy the Summer holiday and remain healthy so that we can welcome everyone back safely to the academy in September.

Yours sincerely

Mark Fowle
Interim CEO

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Chair of Directors: Mr Mike Adnitt
Interim Chief Executive Officer: Mr Mark Fowle

Plans for the re-opening of the Secondary Academy from September 2020

- **Students will be placed into three Year Group ‘Bubbles’** to allow for greater separation of students whilst they are in the academy. Each bubble will have their own entrance/exit point into the academy and on arrival should wait outside this area. Students will not be allowed into the academy before their designated arrival time.

Bubble 1 Year 7 and 8; students to wait outside the main entrance next to the car park and will enter and exit from this point.

Bubble 2 Year 9 and 10; students to enter and exit at The Avenue Road gate waiting near the outside dining room door.

Bubble 3 Year 11; students to enter and exit through the Sports Centre side gate, they will then wait to enter by the library student entrance.

- **Structure of the Academy Day.** Each bubble will have separate start and finish times along with different break and lunchtimes. The length of lessons will vary with longer lessons in the morning and shorter lessons in the afternoon.

Year 7/8 will start at 8.30am, have break at 10.30am, lunch at 1.15pm and leave at 3pm.

Year 9/10 will start at 8.40am, have break at 10.45am, lunch at 12.45pm and leave at 3.15pm.

Year 11 will start at 9.00am, have break at 11.15, lunch at 1.45pm and leave at 3.45pm.

- **Students will have the same classroom ‘bubble’ bases for the majority of their lessons, sitting in the same seat.** They will be given hand sanitiser to wash their hands on entry to every classroom and the dining room. For lessons that require specialist equipment or facilities such as PE, Art, Music, Drama, IT, Science, and Food Technology they will move from their classroom base following a specified route through the academy.
- **Cleaning;** to maintain high standards of hygiene we will be employing an additional cleaner who will work in the academy throughout the day providing additional cleaning of toilets, corridors classrooms and communal areas. At the end of every lesson students will be required to wipe down their desk, chair and the general area in which they have worked with a wet wipe.
- **Curriculum subjects and Catch Up Plans;** We will continue to offer the full range of subjects for all students. The amount of time for lessons has been increased to provide extra-time for learning and catch-up. We will continue to set on-line catch up work using Microsoft Teams and students will be supported with this work in their lessons and asked to complete this at home. PE will have arrangements in place to ensure that students have a large safe space in which to change into PE kit should they need to do so.
- **Students must wear full school uniform from September.** They must also provide their own equipment, eg pens, pencils, rulers etc. as teachers will not be able to provide these in the classroom for hygiene reasons. Should a student need to purchase any of this equipment they will be able to do so from the school office. Payments will need to be made via WisePay as we are unable to take cash payment. If they fail to arrive at school prepared for lessons, they will be sent home to collect the necessary equipment/uniform.
- **Breaks and lunches payment/sandwiches.** Parents can continue to make on-line payments into their child’s account to pay for school meals in the dining room, or for equipment or any other activity. For new arrivals in to the academy this will be set up on the first day of term. Thumb prints will no longer be required at the tills in the dining room with the catering staff charging

the cost of the food to a student's account. Free school meal students will automatically have their accounts credited. The usual range of hot and cold food will be available for students to purchase or alternatively students can bring their own food to eat.

- **Face Coverings** will not be used within the academy. Aprons, gloves and facemasks will be used only by staff administering first aid to individual students.
- **Behaviour Policy Amendments.** we continue to expect the very highest standards of behaviour and consideration for others. However, in these very exceptional circumstances there are changes to the consequences for poor behaviour towards others in the Academy.

We always seek to support students to understand their own behaviour and to make good choices. However, at this time not keeping our rules may have such serious consequences for other students and the staff who are working in school.

There is less opportunity for warnings and additional 'chances' to conform which would normally be afforded to students who are experiencing their own challenges.

The following behaviours will not be tolerated and will result in immediate isolation and consequent removal from school with alternative arrangements made for educational provision at home:

- Any refusal to follow appropriate and reasonable requests and instructions from a member of staff
- Any physical contact with staff or pupils that contravenes the guidance on social distancing
- Any deliberate spitting or close physical encounter that could lead to the spread of infection

The after-school detention system will remain with students closely supervised and social distancing maintained during the detention. Parents will be informed of any same day detention by text message before the end of lunch time as was the practice prior to the academy closure.

We always seek to positively encourage good behaviour and we will look to make full use of the reward system. We will use praise to make sure students understand that their co-operation and thoughtfulness is appreciated and valued.

- **Should a student feel unwell at home they must not attend the academy** and medical advice should be sought. In this event Parents/Carers should inform the academy of your child's absence. Should a student be taken ill in school they will be isolated in a well ventilated room and kept under observation. Parents/carers will be informed and asked to collect their son/daughter immediately. Should the student have coronavirus symptoms they will be required to have a test and have a clear result before returning to the academy.
- These plans are subject to change at short notice dependant on any change to local or national guidelines.

Thank you in anticipation of your support and cooperation as we look forward to re-opening the academy in September.